had been pity, you should have been put together with so mortal a purpose, as then each bore, upon importance of so slight and trivial a nature[2].

POST. By your pardon, sir, I was then a young traveller: rather shunned to go even with what I heard, than in my every action to be guided by others' experiences [3]: but, upon my mended judgment, (if I offend not * to say it is mended,) my quarrel was not altogether slight.

FRENCH. 'Faith, yes, to be put to the arbitre-ment of swords; and by such two, that would, by alMikelihood, have confounded one the other [4], or have fallen both.

IACH. Can we, with manners, ask what was the difference ?

FRENCH. Safely, I think: 'twas a contention in

* First folio omits *not.*

Again, in Heywood's English Traveller, 1633 :

" The constable is call'd to *atone* the broil."

STEEVENS.

3 —upon IMPORTANCE of'SO slight and trivial a nature.] *Im-portance* is here, as elsewhere in Shakspeare, *importunity, instigation.* See vol. xi. p. 4$8, n. 2; and vol. iv. p. 253, n. 5.

MALONE.

So, in Twelfth-Night: " Maria wrote the letter at Sir Toby's great *importance"* Again, in King John:

" At our *importance* hither is he come."

STEEVENS.

3 — rather shunned to go even with what I heard, &c.] This is expressed with a kind of fantastical perplexity. He means, I was then willing to take for my direction the experience of others, more than such intelligence as I had gathered myself. JOHNSON.

This passage cannot bear the meaning that Johnson contends for. Posthumus is describing a presumptuous young man, as he acknowledges himself to have been at that time ; and means to say, that " he rather studied to avoid conducting himself by the opinions of other people, than to be guided by their experience.'* "•—To take for direction the experience of others, would be a proof of wisdom, not of presumption. M. MASON.

* — CONFOUNDED one the other,] To *confound^* in our author's time, signified—to *destroy.*

So, in Antony and Cleopatra, vol. xii. p. 280.

" What willingly he did *confound* he wail'd."

MALQNE.